

"I see nothing," said Sir Urban.

"There! there!" persisted the child, excitedly.

But as she pointed, at the sound of the approaching steps, the forms of the ancestors of the house of Ashford slowly faded away even from Edna's eyes.

"My darling child," said her father, tenderly, to Edna. "You must control yourself. These fancies are not for the ears of every one."

"They were no fancies," persisted his child. "My own eyes saw them. They are gone now; but they have told me all! In that cabinet lies the confession of a crime of which you were innocent."

Spite of his resistance, Edna led her father to the cabinet, and entreated him to open it. Drawer upon drawer was opened at Edna's instigation.

"What is this?" said Sir Urban, at last, "a paper! It is in Randolph's writing! Good heavens! what do I see?" and he read rapidly. "He confesses to having been the cause of the death of his brother Emeric, and—Ah, Providence is merciful! My innocence is thus proclaimed!"

Lady Ashford flew to her husband's arms. All crowded around them with expressions of wonder and congratulation.

"Hark!" cried Edna, nestling to her father. "Hark! it is the organ; it plays again. But now it is a song of jubilee!"

I am told that since these strange occurrences at Ashford Hall, little Edna has exhibited no further symptoms of that peculiar temperament, which may be fancied to have connected her with the spirit-world. It seemed to have been generated in her at the period of her mother's bitterest sorrow in order to clear away that fearful cloud on her father's name when the fitting time should come.

J. PALGRAVE SIMPSON.

ADAPTATION OF SHEEP TO CLIMATE.—Sheep adapt themselves to a wider latitude than any domesticated animal except dogs, says the *Journal of Agriculture*. For more than a thousand years they have been raised with profit in Iceland, where the climate is so cold that few cultivated crops can be produced. They are also raised with profit in all the countries of Europe and Asia that border on the North Sea. Sheep raising has lately been undertaken in Patagonia, with excellent promise of success. South Africa and all the islands in the Indian Ocean are found to be well adapted to the raising of sheep. Spain and Asiatic Turkey have long produced most excellent wool, although the climate of these countries is very warm. Sheep do well in every State and Territory in this country, and are better adapted to poor land than any other domesticated animal except the goat. They utilize the feed that grows on hills and mountains that are too steep for horses and cattle to climb. They will eat more kinds of forage than any animal except the goat. There is economy in keeping a few sheep in pastures that are chiefly devoted to other animals, for the reason that the former will eat many kinds of weeds and grasses that the latter will leave.

UNION COUNTY.

THAT portion of Oregon lying between the summit of the Blue Mountains and Snake River, and extending from Baker County to the line of Washington Territory, is known as the "County of Union." It has a superficial area of 5,400 square miles, the surface being much broken by the Blue Mountains, whose summit ridge forms the dividing line between Union and Umatilla counties and the Eagle Creek Mountains, which lie in the eastern portion of the county. These mountains give the country a greatly diversified character. Into the general make-up of the whole Nature has woven, in a most wonderful manner, many elements of picturesqueness, grandeur and beauty. Lofty, rugged peaks, with crowns of perpetual snow; beautiful little lakes, hidden in the depths of the forests; sparkling streams of cold mountain water, and numerous valleys, dotted with thriving towns and villages, all combine to make Union County an interesting subject, either from a picturesque or industrial point of view.

The climate is as diversified as the surface. It is not difficult to find localities which are subject to the same extremes of heat and cold that prevail in the northeastern portion of the United States; and from such a climate, in a journey of a few hours, one may pass into a temperature where snow seldom falls, or to one where frosts come every month in the year. By reason of this diversity no general description can do justice to any single locality or convey a correct idea of the whole. For that reason we will consider it according to the natural divisions occasioned by the two mountain ranges.

The most western portion consists of the eastern slope of the Blue Mountains. It is about twenty-five miles wide and extends the full length of the county. It supports large forests of timber, including fir, pine, spruce and tamarack. These forests abound in elk, deer, bear, grouse, pheasants, etc., and the streams are full of trout. All the larger streams find their sources in small lakes among the highest mountains. Along them are narrow valleys, where the soil is exceedingly fertile, and where wild redtop and several other grasses grow, affording excellent hay and pasturage for live stock. Many places in the mountains are susceptible of cultivation, yet but few settlements have been made. In the summer time sheep herders and stockmen resort to this region with their stock, for here they find valuable pasturage for sheep, horses and cattle. The Blue Mountains are of volcanic formation, and there are several places which have the appearance of having once been craters of volcanoes, and there are many springs of warm mineral waters.

East of the Blue Mountains, and west of the Eagle Creek Range, is Grande Ronde Valley, a circular, grassy plain, thirty miles in diameter. It is one of the most fertile valleys on the Pacific Slope, well watered, and very productive of fruit, grain, vegetables and hay. Wheat often yields from forty to sixty bushels to the acre, and oats and barley from sixty to eighty. It is cut off on the south by a high range of hills, which extends in an easterly and westerly direction, connecting the mountains on